

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



STUDIES IN THE PATHOLOGY OF RADIATION DISEASE—N. A. Krayevskii. Translated by A. Lieberman. English Translation Edited by Hermann Lisco and Malcolm Walker. A Pergamon Press Book, distributed by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1965. 219 pages, \$15.00.

This monograph by Professor H. A. Krayevskii and his coworkers represents the first English translation of the original volume "Ocherki patologicheskai anatomii luchevoi bolezni" which was published in Moscow in 1957.

Professor Krayevskii is one of the leading pathologists of the Soviet Union. He has presented a great deal of his own work and that of his coworkers on the pathological effects of ionizing radiations from external and internal sources in experimental animals. The author considers dogs as the most suitable animals for experimental investigation of radiation disease and the studies and findings were based largely on the pathological changes which took place in these animals. Only the main pathological features of the disease are presented in this monograph. The radiosensitivity of cells in tissue cultures is not discussed.

The monograph contains ten chapters each of which has been written by a leading Russian authority. Although the purpose of this publication is to present Soviet studies on the pathology of radiation disease, many references are made to data obtained from studies in Japan made on individuals who were exposed to ionizing radiation and also to studies made by Americans. There are 290 references in the bibliography.

The following statement is made in the conclusion: "The study of radiation disease in all its aspects is only just beginning. Two related tasks of great complexity and vital importance before us: the study of the mechanisms by which radiation disease develops and the establishment of a basis for the therapy and prophylaxis of this new disease."

This publication will be of interest to scientists specializing in this field who wish to know how the Soviets are studying the effects of ionizing radiation and what their results have been. Most of the data presented is quite similar to that which has been published by American, English, and other investigators.

JUSTIN J. STEIN, M.D.

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CATARACT OPERATION BY ENZYMATIC ZONULOLYSIS—Doz. Dr. Hans Hofmann, University Eye Clinic, Graz, Austria. Translated by Dorothy Shukri, with a foreword by Professor Karl Hruby. First American Edition translation edited by R. M. Fasanella, M.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1965. 118 pages, \$6.50. (Paperback.)

This paperback monograph by Dr. Hofmann covers the field of enzymatic zonulolysis completely. The discovery of the zonulolytic process is fascinating in that the medico-legal inhibitory effects on medicine in this country would make a similar discovery highly improbable.

The anatomy and histology of the eyes is reviewed in

Chapter 2. The experimental observations of the enzymes and their effects on the different eye tissues are covered in Chapters 3 and 4.

In other chapters the effect of temperature, pH, time and concentration on zonulolysis, and stability of the Enzyme Solutions, are covered in detail. Chapters on Enzyme Promoters and Inhibitors, Mechanism of Zonulolysis, Sensitization, and effect of Enzymes on Suture Material complete the preclinical material.

The second section of the monograph deals with the clinical application of Zonulolysis. In reviewing the literature and adding his own comments, Dr. Hofmann presents a number of conflicting statements. This is not entirely his fault, since the literature is in itself a mass of conflicting statements.

In summary, Dr. Hofmann proposes that trypsin is a far more safe drug than alpha-chymotrypsin and is to be preferred for clinical use.

ROBERT M. SINSKEY, M.D.

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CARDIOMYOPATHIES—Ciba Foundation Symposium—Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., F.R.C.P., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1964. 428 pages, \$12.50.

This monograph contains the proceedings of a recent symposium held in London, in which a few leading authorities presented formal papers and exchanged ideas in informal discussions. The title of the symposium is somewhat misleading: rather than "cardiomyopathies" in general, 75 per cent of the meeting was devoted to one special type of it: obstructive cardiomyopathy or "Hypertrophic muscular subaortic stenosis." Only the last few presentations deal with other forms: fibroelastosis, Friedreich disease and viral myocarditis.

The main subject is covered in depth. Basic anatomy and physiology of obstructive cardiomyopathy is followed by clinical features, pharmacology and surgical treatment. Individual presentations are good, even though most of them are not new: the very reason for inviting a given speaker is based on previous published work by him, so that repetition is unavoidable. However, most speakers have taken the trouble of adding new material and broadening their presentations, rather than restating previously published work. However, the highlight of the book is the discussions that follow each group of presentations. Here one can find pertinent criticisms, reinterpretation of the lecturers' material, exchange of views and provocative ideas, which might be unsuitable for formal presentations.

The combination of authoritative chapters and informal discussion makes this an excellent monograph which is highly recommended to those interested in cardiac disease even though the subject is a relatively common clinical syndrome, one which the average practicing physician is likely to encounter.

A. SELZER